

Minutes of the meeting of the Denman Island Residents Association (DIRA) held Monday, March 9, 2015 in the Back Hall, located at 1196 Northwest Road, BC, commencing at 7:30 pm.

Present: Chair of the meeting: Margie Gang

Executive: Denise MacKean, minute taker
Doug Wright
Bob French
Ron Shepherd
Laurie Montemurro

Apologies; Frank Frketich

Meeting was called to order: 28 attended.

Motion (Louise Bell) to adopt the agenda with two additions was Carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2015 with corrections to the motion made by Ralph McCuaig under Bill Mee Park Committee report to reverse the wording to Cross-Island Trail and/or Morning Beach Park Stairs. Also Margie Gang wants the Bill Mee report to include an explanation by John Wigle “the recent Bill Mee Park breakwater extension proposal, which is to be funded from a CVRD \$35,000 reserve fund allocated to the Parks service. After engineering study, the desired extension was priced at over \$70,000, unaffordable even if the rainy-day fund was included. The extension was seen as impractical at this cost. There was some discussion of how the reserve fund could/should be spent.” Carried.

Executive Report: Margie reported:

The Executive had an amicable meeting with CVRD on February 18 and discussed Bill Mee “Rainy Day Fund”. This also involved discussing the reserve fund. We suggested monies come to DIRA once a year and also directly. DIRA administration money goes now via Waste Management but “designated services” get money direct. This situation is being worked out with CVRD. Monies will be directed to Parks, Trails and Pesticide Free committees.

Old Business:

Access to the Northlands Provincial Park discussed. Peter Karsten explained the present situation which lacks entry roads. The Parks committee is exploring possibilities and has sent a letter of inquiry to the powers that be. DIRA would like to know when and if action proceeds from this. Their first letter was exploratory.

Margie extended a big Thank You to Peter for the beautiful new entrance sign to Denman at the Ferry Dock.

She also reminded us of the upcoming AGM April 13, 2015.

Guardian of Denman Shores: Liz Johnston presented the follow-up to their Notice of Motion” presented last month and re-tabled the Motion: as presented February 9, 2015.

Guardians of Denman Shores Committee moves that they initiate the following actions:

1. Creation of works management plan to limit access to DI authorized beach access areas including a budget.
2. Consultation re this initiative with any agencies as required, Ministry of Transportation, Comox Valley Regional District, Islands Trust, Dept. Of Fisheries and Ocean, Forestry Lands and Natural Resources, BC Ferries, and all Denman Island Emergency Service Providers.
3. Advise DIRA and DI community of works management plan through local media such as the Grapevine.
4. Completion of works management plan further to the consultation process and further to the committee raising all funding required for the project.

Edi Johnston presented background to this motion, and its legal precedent. She illustrated the removable post solution. Ron Shepherd questioned the need for a motion and suggested the committee already had a mandate to move forward without it. The DIRA wanted clarity of the legalities of the intended action. Margie brought up the 2013 DFO response to a requested new by-law and Bert Taylor wondered if the Terms of Reference of the committee allows them to go to the government. Liz emphasized this is not just about shellfish but the beach in general and they need this indication of community support to further their efforts. Doug Wright reviewed shellfish leases and tenures differences. Louise Bell reminded us that the issue has been around a long time and is still worth pursuing. The problem of non-shellfish related vehicles was mentioned. Bob French made a Friendly Motion to eliminate #4 of the original motion and keep #1,2,3. After short discussion it was Not Carried.

The vote was called on the original motion and it was Carried. Ralph McCuaig wished to be recorded as opposed.

Financial Report: Doug Wright reported that CVRD asked for a consolidated financial report of DIRA and its committees. We will have it reviewed by a retired certified general accountant. The report to date was posted and may have a few small changes but shows present worth of DIRA as \$450,000. Paul Kabak is the accountant who will review our books. Motion: that Paul Kabak will be hired to review DIRA’s books to a maximum cost of \$2000. Carried. Doug thought DIRA would be doing this yearly.

New Business:

Ron reported we purchased a new computer and accessories for \$1644.56.

Committee Reports:

Waste Management: Bob French reported that they have a project manager for the building extension. Bob also is resigning from DIRA and Waste Management due to his wife's health problems.

Community Dock: John Johnston reported an upcoming meeting and the dock is in good shape. The Dock site is going through a management plan change involving the new boat launch. Perry Gorrara was thanked for being the winter season dock watcher.

Bill Mee Park: Their AGM is Monday and a maintenance cleanup is coming up. They are still looking at the available funds for realigning the breakwater.

Trails: Ralph reported a work group will be at the big tree on East Road to finish work on that trail. Peter commented on the positive reception by the community to the Cross-Island Trail. Ralph suggested a more-accurate map on the DIRA website.

Parks: CVRD is looking at the Morning Beach Park and needed repairs to the stair access. The park is closed at present. Gabions have been suggested. Bente Pilgaard spoke to the access to the new park and said BC Parks had previously rejected the preferred proposal.

Guardians of Denman Shores: Edi reported on the recent meeting to discuss sewage discharge in Baynes Sound. That outflow option seems to be rejected and Lazo option is still on the list. Thanks go to Edi, Liz and Dave Critchley for their efforts!

Islands Trust Report: Laura Busheikin sent in a report that the Riparian Waterways program is being worked on and she is following up on ferry-landing lighting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next General Meeting and AGM April 13, 2015

Chair:

Minute taker:

Margie Gang

Denise MacKean